

1-1-2004

Editors' Notes

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Recommended Citation

Love, Stuart; Love, D'Esta; and Olbricht, Thomas H. (2004) "Editors' Notes," *Leaven*: Vol. 12: Iss. 3, Article 2.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/leaven/vol12/iss3/2>

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Editors' Notes

D'ESTA LOVE AND STUART LOVE

This issue of *Leaven* is long overdue—not because of publishing delays but because of the need to treat the Holy Spirit as a ministry topic. As you will learn in the first article by Craig Bowman, the topic of the Spirit in the OT has not been adequately and/or justifiably developed. Further, all of the NT writings acknowledge the church as a spirit-endowed community whether one explores the gift of the Spirit before or after the resurrection of Christ.

The Spirit empowered Jesus for his ministry. By the Spirit, the demons were subjugated and the good news of God's kingdom was proclaimed with power. The event of Jesus' resurrection paved the way for the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost as an eschatological fulfillment of the last days according to the prophet Joel (3:1-5, Acts 2:14-36). Pentecost established not only the public importance of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for the beginnings of the church but also that the raising of Jesus from the dead was none other than the work and activity of God's Spirit (Rom 1:3-4, 8:11).

Across the earliest churches, Christians believed that God had given them the Spirit (Rom 5:5), that they had received the Spirit (Rom 8:15), that the Spirit of God dwelled within them (1 Cor 3:16), that the Spirit was given in the experience of baptism (Acts 2:38; 1 Cor 6:11), and that the variety of gifts of God for building up the church were from none other than the Spirit (1 Cor 12:4-13). Our "failure," therefore, to adequately address the importance of the Holy Spirit for ministry is ours alone and not due to a lack of emphasis among the earliest churches described in the NT.

Your editors invited Tom Olbricht to serve as the guest editor of this issue. Dr. Olbricht's extensive knowledge and wise experience in biblical theology, church history, and the Stone-Campbell heritage—as well as his love for the church—have ably prepared him for this task. He has gathered a qualified group of writers who, we believe, can enrich our understanding and devotion concerning this vital theme. What follows is Dr. Olbricht's rationale for the issue and a brief description of each writer's contribution.

Stuart Love
D'Esta Love

When I became interested in ministry almost 60 years ago, my mentors believed that God was involved with those who preached the gospel. I heard them quote such passages as, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt 28:19-20). The declaration that Christ is with those who make disciples gave all of us the confidence that we were not alone in ministry in His name. I also heard quoted, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Cor 3:6). God was therefore also involved in the acquisition of new disciples. I also recall a standard phrase in prayers preceding the sermon, "Give brother Jones a happy recollection of the things he has prepared."

Clearly, we believed that God aided and sustained those who went forth to nourish disciples! But we did not talk much about how he did it, and especially how the Holy Spirit might be involved. We knew that the apostolic ministry was empowered by the Holy Spirit, "So stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). But we were not so sure about ours. We were wary of the extravagant claims of popular denominational evangelists regarding the presence of the Holy Spirit in ministry.

In my lifetime, spanning the last half of the twentieth century, the ministers among whom I labored and with whom I have been involved in training gave little systematic attention to the work of the Holy Spirit in the life and outcomes of those who serve among God's people. The authors of the essays in this edition of *Leaven* were invited to provide in-depth analysis on the work of the Holy Spirit in ministry from biblical documents, the writings of early church, Reformation, and Restorationist fathers, and from one involved in vital ministry, along with a bibliography of significant works.

The first essay by **Craig Bowman** explores the ways in which the prophets of Israel went forth as God's servants, filled with his Spirit. **John York** has given special attention to the work of the Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts as new communities of faith were planted throughout the Mediterranean regions because Luke especially emphasized the importance of the Holy Spirit in these developments. **Mary Ellen Pereira** examines the Gospel of John to ascertain how the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of those who go forth to announce Jesus as Messiah. **Kindalee Pfremmer De Long** has given detailed attention to Paul's perspective on the Holy Spirit leading those who go forth to labor for the Lord.

With **Fred Norris's** essay on the manner in which the church fathers perceived Holy Spirit support in ministry, we turn to thinkers down through the history of Christianity. **Keith Stanglin** has examined the views on the Holy Spirit and ministry of the magisterial reformers Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin. **Thomas H. Olbricht** and **Lee Snyder** have perused the writings of major early restorationists Barton W. Stone, Walter Scott and Alexander Campbell to discover in what sense they believed that the Holy Spirit is involved in the work of church servants. **Mark Frost**, who has been active for a number of years in significant ministry, reflects on experiences in the ministries of the churches with which he has labored. **Carisse Berryhill**, a professional librarian, has put together a bibliography of a number of major studies on the Holy Spirit and ministry.

It is our hope that these remarks will be of help and encouragement to those who serve countless significant roles in our churches. May all of us be challenged anew by these reflections on the manner in which the Holy Spirit is involved in ministry until the end of the age!

Thomas H. Olbricht